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207/11

Epistle General

To them who are of the ROYAL

PRIEST-HOOD

AND

CHOSEN GENERATION.

Given forth from the Movings of
the Power and Spirit of Truth,
and now made publick to be sent
abroad among the Saints scattered
in Old and New *England, Germany,
Holland, Ireland, Scotland, Bar-
badoes, and Virginia*, for them to
read in the Fear of the Lord.

L O N D O N :

Printed for *Thomas Simmons*, at the sign of the Bull
and Mouth, neer *Aldersgate*, 1660.

Epistle General

TO THE BRETHREN OF THE CHURCH

OF THE SEVENTH DAY

OF THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD

ONE THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED

AND FIFTY SEVEN

AND FIFTY SEVEN

AND FIFTY SEVEN

AND FIFTY SEVEN

FRIENDS,

L Et all that you do be done in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ, by whom all things was made and created, that you may do that which you do in the true Dominion, and then what you do, ye do in the Power of God; and all Friends, dwell in love, for that is the mark of the Disciple, and the fruits of Faith and the Spirit, which is the end of the Commandement, out of a pure heart, and fulfils the Law that Edifies, and in that is edification, and building; and the fruits of being past from death to life, there is love to Brethren and Enemies, being in the seed that destroys death, and the power of it the Devil.

We need no Mafs for to teach us, for the Spirit that gave forth Scripture teacheth us how to pray, sing, praise, rejoyce, honor and worship God, and in what and how to walk, and to behave our selves to God and man, and leadeth us into all truth, in which is our unity, and Comforter, and Guide, and Leader, and not men without, which say they have not the Spirit and Power, as the Apostles had that gave forth the Scriptures; and we need not your Common Prayer to teach us, for the Spirit that gave forth Scriptures, teacheth us how to pray, praise, sing, fast, and to give thanks, and praise and worship, and in what and how to honor and glorifie God, and how to walk to him and men, and all Creatures upon the Earth, and leadeth and guideth

into all Truth, which was given forth from it, which reproveth the World of sin, that is our Comforter, Leader, and Guide, by which we know sonship, in which we have unity, and this doth never change : But that which man doth invent, prayers and forms, which doth say that they have not the same spirit which gave forth the scriptures ; so the spirit that gave forth scriptures teacheth us how to pray, speak, sing, fast, give thanks, and how to read, and to walk to God and man, and how to worship God, and in what, for it leadeth us into all Truth, which is our Comforter, in which we have unity, and fellowship, and to know our Religion which doth never change ; and so the spirit of Truth which gave forth scripture is our Director, Guide, Leader and Comforter, which reproveth the world for sin, and this leadeth to see the end of all Directories which man invents, which have not the spirit the Apostles had, and when they cannot hold it up, they cry to the Powers of the Earth to help them ; and these we see from the spirit erred, and without the spirit, with whom we cannot trust our bodies, spirits, nor souls, into their hands, but hath committed them up to the Lord whose they are.

And we are a people that are redeemed from the Earth, and World, and need none of your Church made Faith which you have framed and made in a eleven daies time, and your other three daies set apart ; for Christ is the Author of our Faith, which is the gift of God, which is a mystery held in a pure Conscience, and we say that all the Priests in *Scotland*, and *London*, and *New-England*, cannot make the

the Gift of God, the mystery, which is the Faith which remains, and by which men are justified, and saved, neither have they power over it which brings us to have access to God, and giveth us victory over that which separated us from God, and so we need none of their Faith to lead us, for the Faith Christ is the Author of, we live in, which they cannot make nor frame, and though they may cry to the magistrates to help them to uphold their made Faith, which Idol they cannot hold up themselves, which they have invented, and say, they are not in the Life and Power as they was in that gave forth the Scriptures, and say Revelations ceased from people, and there is no Victory while they be upon the Earth; this is the fruits of their framed Faith, which we need not, for the Spirit that gave forth the Scriptures, teacheth us to know who is the Author of our Faith, and the fruits of it which giveth Victory, and the Spirit teacheth us how to pray, sing, give thanks, praise, rejoyce, fast, worship God, and in what, and how to walk to God and man, and leadeth us into all Truth; the Reprover of the World for sin, which is our Comforter, Guide, and Leader, and Director, in which we have unity and fellowship that is without end, and a pure Religion that doth never change.

And a great deal of stuff there is in their Books, which is not worth mentioning; which it and the Nature will rot that gave it forth; but the Seed, and Life, and Power will stand; Church Faith changeth, Directory changes, Common Prayer changes, and Mass changes; and here is the Four Religions

Religions which is got up since the Apostles daies, which they have fought for and killed one another about, but the pure Religion, doth not change which we are of and own, in which is the Spiritual weapons, which were amongst the Apostles, the true Faith changeth not, for it abideth and remains, which is the gift of God, and a mystery held in a pure Conscience, *Rom. 13.* of which we are, and which is our Faith; Mass for the Papists, Common Prayer for the Episcopal men, and the Directory for the Presbyterians, Church-made framed Faith, for the Independants and mixt Baptists, and others, and those have had their fellowship in these, for which they fought, and about which Carnal weapons got up since the daies of the Apostles; but the fellowship in the Spirit remains and doth not change, which hath Spiritual Weapons, and are known to fight withal about Religion, in which the Seed of God is known which bruise the Serpents head, which led man from God, and made a separation betwixt man and God, and the Election known before the world began, who is the Head of our Church, and not them that be Head of the Mass, Head of your Directory, Head of the Common Prayer, and Head of the Church-made Faith, which we see all changes and comes to nought; and God confounds, and men stands in Doubts, and Questions, and have no assurance in their Religion; but that of God stands in them all bound.

They that followed the Pope was called Papists, and them that protested against the Pope was called

led Protestants; and thus they gave names one to another, and so Common Prayer men, and Directory men, and Independants men, and Baptists men; and thus in the Envy, out of the Love, out of the Spirit which gave forth the Scriptures, gave Names one to another, all which we Judg; our Faith, our Church, our Unity is in the Spirit, and our Word at which we tremble, was in the beginning before the Papists mens Mass, and your Episcopals Common Prayer, and the Presbyterians Directory, and Independants, Baptists, and other Church-made framed Faith was, and our Unity, Church, and Fellowship will stand, when they are all ended, by which Spirit we all judg them, and deny their works, in which is our Unity with God, with Scriptures, and one with another, for they have been to people like so many changeable Coverings; but now the Spirit is taking them off, by which we are covered, and is our weapons, in this day of great battel with them; the Scriptures which you do speak, and shew forth in all your Books, is owned, but your imaginations of them we deny; but they are all owned in themselves and places, so they are all ours, which end in Christ, which is ours, and in whom we are that remaineth; the Mass is the Papists Sacrifice that they kill about, the Common Prayer is the Episcopals Sacrifice, that they persecute and kill about, and the Directory is the Presbyterians Sacrifice they persecute and kill about, the made Framed Church Faith is that which the Independants and Baptists Sacrifice, which they kill and persecute about,

which

which Sacrifice the Lord doth not accept, neither he hath respect to, which is from them which hath Erred from the Spirit which the Apostles was in, with which they offered spiritual Sacrifice to God the Father of Spirits which we are in.

And all my dear hearts, all know the Fellowship of the Seed in its suffering, and to be made conformable to his Death, that you in the Suffering, through it may know the Power of the Resurrection of the just Seed, and this is it which kills all bad Spirits, that will talk but not do with the Seed, such may crucifie Christ in themselves afresh; therefore mind the dayly suffering which the Seed had, and have unity with that, so you may rise with that, which destroyes that which causeth it to suffer.

The Papists cries Higher Power help, help, or else my Mass will go down, and all my Ceremonies; The Episcopal Men cries help, help Higher Power, or else my Common Prayer goes down: the Presbyterians cries help, help Higher Power, or else my Directory will down: the Independants, and Anabaptists, and others cries help, help Higher Powers, or else my framed Faith, which is my eleven daies work will down, and we shall not stand; Are not you ashamed all, and shews you are naked, out of the Power and Life the Apostles was in, and from their Weapons are naked; the outward Power neither upheld nor separated them from the Love of God which they had in Christ the end of the Law, I am not one of them that calls themselves Papists, Common Prayer men, nor Presbyterians,
Inde-

Independant, nor Anabaptists, Puritans, nor Heathen, which be out of the Life of God; but that which God hath called me to, that I am, and the Elect before the World began: this is to go every where all abroad amongst Friends, who are of the Royal Priest-hood, which destroyes that that made a separation from God: from the Royal Seed goes the Royal Commandement, which Seed remains for ever, from the Royal Seed to the Royal Seed, which are the Royal Priest-hood, which hath the Royal Law, and Love to Friends and Enemies, which is beyond the Love of the World, and before it was, that is the Royal Love where no Enmity can come; *Forgive us as we forgive them*, cries Papists, cries Episcopal, cries Presbyterians, and Baptists, and Independants; these cries and saith the Lords Prayer, *Forgive us our debts and trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us*; and then like a company of senceless men, without understanding falls a fighting one with another about their trespasses and debts, and never minded what they prayed, as though they never looked for forgiveness, and to receive the things they prayed for, that praies, *Forgive us Lord as we forgive them*; and falls a persecuting, and imprisoning one another, and taking their Brethren and fellow servants by the throat, about Religion, which in their prayers they said, *Forgive us as we forgive them*, and will not forgive, but saith their Prayers as the Pharisees did the Scriptures, *and did not*. This is he that must be cast into Prison untill he pay the utmost farthing, and must not come out; and this hath been their work

Since the Apostles daies, and is not here Law? The Apostles and Christ did not bid that any should kill about their words, but that they should love Enemies; So you will kill about their words which were killed for speaking them forth. And so all Friends, dwell in the Seed of God which is Heir of the Power of the World which is without end, in that dwell and keep your Meetings, that you may all be Possessors.

All Religions will fight about Religions, and Worships, kill like the Heathen about their Gods, Jews, Gentiles, Papists, Protestants, of all Sects; which be out of the Power of the Lord, and the Spirit that the Apostles was in, and so they be all out of the Royal Spirit, that hath the Royal Spiritual Weapons, and out of the Royal Seed which saith *Love Enemies*, which is the Royal Command, to the Royal Priesthood: and they confess they have not the same power and spirit of the Apostles; So then its true for them to say, we are not the spiritual men, we have not spiritual weapons to fight withal; if you do not help us, Higher Powers, we fall, for we hold our Traditions, and that which we have is by Tradition, is by the Earthly Powers; for we are not made Ministers as the Apostles was by the immediate Spirit and Power and Gifts as the Apostles was, therefore the Higher Power must help us, and to them go we with our Packet of Letters as *Saul* did, for we are not spiritual weaponed men as *Paul* was; for in all these things are the Priests guilty.

The Papists, Common Prayer men, Presbyterian,
Inde-

Independants, Baptists, persecute one another about their Inventions which they have invented, their Mass, their Common Prayer, their Directory Church Faith, which they have made and framed, their Inventions and handy-works, and not for the Truth, for they know not what Spirit they are of that persecute and would have mens lives destroyed about Church-Worship and Religion, Christ saith, *who said, He came not to destroy mens lives, but to save them* ; Now they that know not what Spirit they be of that will persecute and destroy mens lives, and not save them, we cannot trust our bodies, souls, nor spirits into their hands that know not what spirit they be of themselves, they are not like to be trusted with others that would destroy by a Law which the Disciples would have done by Prayer, to command fire to come down from Heaven to destroy them that would not receive Christ, which sort Christ rebukes and tels them that they did not know what spirit they are of; and now if they did not know what Spirit they was of, do these which have persecuted about Church and Religion since the Apostles daies, who would compel mens Bodies, Goods, Lives, Souls, and Estates into their hands by a Law, or make them suffer else; these are now the Ministers of Christ (the Savior) that destroyes mens lives, and they know not what Spirit they be of, and the lives, bodies, and souls are not to be trusted in their hands, and you that do persecute shall have no Resurrection to life except you repent; but they that do know what Spirit they be of themselves, they are in the unrebukable

Zeal, and by the Spirit of God they offer up their spirit, their souls and bodies to the Lord, which are his, whose they are to keep them.

G. F.

WE be of the Royal Seed, Elect and precious, before the World began; that which (ever) the Sodomites crucified, grieved, and vexed, by their unrighteous, ungodly Conversation, who lived in fulness and pleasures; and abundance of idleness; And are of the seed that cannot serve the wills and lusts of men, and bow and stoop to them, who are a people redeemed out of kindreds, Kingdoms, Peoples, and Nations, who are of the Household of God, built up together a spiritual House, whose builder and maker is God, and do reign upon the Earth as Kings and Priests unto God, whom we serve day and night; and are of the seed that hath been slain from the Foundation of the World, which the Princes of the World and Countels, and the great and wise of the Earth crucified, who lived in the form of Godliness of the saints words, but quench't the spirit in themselves, and being that Birth born of the flesh, persecutes that which is born of the spirit.

We are the seed, the Anointed which the Powers of the Earth combine and take counsel together against, whom we see God sitting in Heaven laugh them to scorn; we are the Royal Priesthood, who offers daily to the Lord the spiritual sacrifice

crifice, the holy Generation, and the peculiar people, zealous of good works, cloathed with the zeal of Christ against the bad works, and the workers; Therefore of all Nations, Peoples, sects, Waies, Professions, and Talkers of Religion are we hated, by them that be out of the way and power of God, though they profess Scriptures, Church Worship, and Ministry, yet such have crucified Christ, and the Lord of Glory: We are them that witness the Promise of God fulfilled, and that do witness that the Ages is come wherein God would shew forth his exceeding Riches, and kindness, which was wrought amongst the Apostles; we are the Anointed of God, and his Prophets: that he saith Touch not, who are as the apple of his Eye, who for our sakes hath reprov'd Powers, and Thrones, and Dominions, and rebuked them; We are the Preachers of Righteousness in this great City *Sodom* wherein Christ was crucified, where the life of the Prophets, and the Apostles and holy men of God lies slain, and Cursers, Swearers, Drunkards, Eaters and Drinkers that riseth up to play in all fulness, wantonness, and prophane, professeth their words, and makes merry over their lives; and the witnesses since the Apostles daies have been slain, the woman in the Wilderness, the Lamb and his Wife shall be known which is come up out of the Wilderness. So in this great City *Sodom* and *Gomorrah* the false Church and the Whore wherein all the abominations are, that made all the Nations drunk of the Wine of the Wrath of her Fornication, whereby the World is all on heaps about Religion and Church Worship,

and the several waies in sodomites nature professing the Saints words, imitating fornic, killing and slaying one another about the professing the saints words, but out of their life, which shews that they are not of the Royal seed which saith Love Enemies, that's the Royal seed, and they that follows him is of the Royal Priesthood, and holy People and Generation, amongst whom is the Royal Law of Love, whereby we cannot respect mens persons, for he who doth is convinced of the Royal Law to be a Transgressor. So every one of us, that is come to the seed of God, that bruieth the Serpents head that led man from God, who is the Prince of the World, the Prince of Darkness, and the Prince of the Air, the Father of Lyes, a Murderer from the beginning, the Corrupter of Man-kind, the Author of the separation from God, and the Original of sin, the beginning of it, which led man from his Dominion over the handy works of God, which the Royal Seed Christ destroyes, and renews man again in the Image of God, and brings him again to his Dominion over the handy works of God; and this hundreds of thousands are now witnessing, by which they come to be Kings, and redeemed from the Earth, and comes to be made Kings upon the Earth in the Image of God, over the handy works of God, in the wisdom by which they were created; so all Powers whatsoever that are a terror to evil doers, that bears not the sword in vain, to us are a praise that do well. And all Kings upon the Earth that are anointed by God, a figure of our Christ the King, the anointed, who binds them all, and makes
 but Kings

Kings to reign upon the Earth, amongst whom Christ is King, which thousands witness, amongst whom he is King, and all other Kings made by man, and putting man on Earthly Crowns, by Earthly Man, will put them off again, if they cross them, and unking them; this is the state amongst them in whom Christ reigns not, nor the true Magistrate, which is to the Evil Doers a Terror; but since the Apostles daies all hath been in a Confusion about Religion, Church, and Worship, amongst them that have killed the witnesses, and since the true Church went into the Wilderness, and the Witnesses slain, and the man Child caught up to God; So they that have slain the Witnesses, and killed the Saints, hath been in all this confusion; and the Witnesses is rising, and the Everlasting Gospel shall be preached again amongst them that have had the words, but have slain the life of the Prophets, and the Apostles, unto all Nations, Kindreds, and Tongues of them that dwell upon the Earth; so the great Professors of the World, which was the Jews, could not abide Jesus the King that he should reign, and where he is now in the Male and in the Female he is King, and that makes Kings among whom he is King; All in the Name of the mighty King of Kings is to be done, and then it is in the Power.

All Friends, Take heed of running on in a form, least you do lose the Power; but keep in the Power and Seed of God in which you will live in the substance; and at any Disputes take heed, many may be lifted up in the Victory and Conquest, and
after

after have a joy in the Prophecies and openings,
and after fall: And if Brablers come and Jauglers,
say they have a bad Meeting, and so the murmur-
ing Nature getteth up, out of patience, and the
Seed which beareth all things, and suffereth all
things, which keepeth down that which causeth
lifting up, murmuring and disputing, which the
Seed endeth and Prophecie, and keepeth down all
the other that is contrary, and would live in the
contrary; that which keeps down that which doth
change, is the peace and the Corner stone, and the
straieness in the Seed and Life.

G. F.

THE END.

Take heed of running on in a storm.
The Power: but keep in the Pow-
er of God in which you will live in the
time; and as any Disturbance the Seed, many
may be lifted up in the Victory and Conquest, and
after

